

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 MC-02 EURE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 087291

O P 041603Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8048

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1440

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS NATO BE NO

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104

REF: A) BRUSSELS 457; B) STATE 66995

1. DEFENSE MINISTRY'S SECRETARY GENERAL HIMLE
RECEIVED DCM APRIL 4 TO DISCUSS AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT
QUESTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF B. WHILE HIMLE WAS
NOT EXPLICIT, IT WOULD APPEAR NORWAY HAS RECEIVED
INFORMATION WHICH HAS PERSUADED IT TO TRY AND
PUSH FORWARD MEETING OF FOUR DEFENSE MINISTERS.

2. HIMLE SAID THAT NORWAY'S NATO AMBASSADOR HAD
PHONED THIS MORNING TO REPORT THAT "FOUR AMBASSADORS"
(PRESUMABLY NATO) WERE MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS AIRCRAFT
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REPLACEMENT ISSUE. APPARENTLY RESPONDING TO WHATEVER

INFORMATION NATO AMBASSADOR CONVEYED, MOD'S CHIEF OF MATERIEL, GENERAL HAMRE, WAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT DANISH, DUTCH AND BELGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRIES AND PROPOSE THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS MEET ON APRIL 30. (HIMLE ORIGINALLY SAID APRIL 29 AND CALLED LATER TO SAY THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY DAY THE CABINET COULD MEET (PERHAPS ON THIS QUESTION) AND THEREFORE APRIL 30 WAS BEING PROPOSED). AS MEASURE OF INCREASED URGENCY, HIMLE SAID THAT GENERAL HAMRE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROPOSE FIRST WEEK OF MAY FOR DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING DURING HIS EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION IN COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE AND BRUSSELS.

3. HIMLE INDICATED HE TOO HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT BELGIUM WAS IN SOME HURRY TO MAKE A DECISION, BUT SAID HE DID NOT SEE EXACTLY WHAT THE HURRY COULD BE SINCE IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING FRANCE HAD GIVEN BELGIUM UNTIL JULY 1 TO PICK UP MIRAGE OPTION. GENERAL HAMRE HAD ALSO NOT RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION WHEN IN BRUSSELS THAT A BELGIAN DECISION WAS IMMINENT; BUT HIMLE NOTED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, HAMRE HAD MET ONLY WITH OFFICIALS IN THE AIR AND MATERIEL PROCUREMENT MINISTRIES, AND NOT IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.

4. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF BELGIUM FACED ITS PARTNERS WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI BEFORE APRIL 30 MEETING, HIMLE SAID HE ASSUMED THAT MEETING WOULD STILL TAKE PLACE. BELGIAN DECISION TO BUY FRENCH WOULD NOT PREVENT REMAINING THREE STATES FROM BUYING U.S. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT BELGIUM WOULD PROCEED UNILATERALLY PRIOR TO APRIL 30 MEETING.

5. ACTION: MINISTER FOSTERVOLL HAS AGREED TO COME TO LUNCH ON APRIL 16 AFTER HIS EASTER HOLIDAY WHICH BEGINS THIS SATURDAY. GIVEN THE KEY ROLE WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTS TO PLAY IN PROMOTING A CONSORTIUM, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD RECEIVE BY COB OSLO-TIME APRIL 15 THE LATEST STATUS REPORT ON THIS QUESTION. OBVIOUSLY, IT WOULD STRENGTHEN FOSTERVOLL'S HAND IF INTERESTED

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U.S. MANUFACTURERS OR USG WERE IN POSITION TO OFFER FURTHER ECONOMIC SWEETENERS TO POTENTIAL CONSORTIUM PARTNERS PRIOR TO APRIL 30 MEETING (ASSUMING THIS DATE IS ACCEPTED). SHOULD FURTHER CONCESSIONS BE CONTEMPLATED, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW BEFORE MY APRIL 16 LUNCHEON. BYNRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, JET AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO01440
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740076-0284
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740467/aaaacjnk.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A) BRUSSELS 457; B) STATE 66995
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104
TAGS: MASS, BE, NO, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005